

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-10 EA-10 INR-10 ICAE-00 NEA-11
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA-DEHENDERSON:DPB
APPROVED BY ARA/CCA-WSSMITH
EUR/RPM-MR. FUERTH
AF/I-MCHESHES
ARA/RPP-MR. FINAN
EA/EX-MR. ROAKLEY
INR-EFLEISCHER
CU-IROSSELL
NEA-MS. GLASPIE

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CUL, PINT, XX, CU

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA

REF: STATE 084164

1. PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING OF 11TH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL
ON JULY 28 ARE WELL ADVANCED. 16,000 DELEGATES FROM 122
FOREIGN COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE, ACCORDING TO
PRESS RELEASE BY FESTIVAL PREPARATORY COMMISSION. GEO-
GRAPHIC BREAKDOWN AS FOLLOWS: EUROPE 6,930, WESTERN
HEMISPHERE 5,851, AFRICA 2,834, ASIA 1,570 AND MIDDLE EAST
815.

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2. THERE MAY BE GREATER PARTICIPATION ON PART OF NON-
COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS THAN AT PREVIOUS FESTIVALS,
CONTINUING A TREND. MANY SUCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE GOING ALONG
FOR THE FREE TRIP MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

3. THE US PREPARATORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS SOLELY OF

REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUNG WORKERS LIBERATION LEAGUE (FORMERLY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE). US YOUTH COUNCIL AND AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED.

4. UNESCO PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL.

5. FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE AGAINST BACKDROP OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ASSAULT ON MONCADA BARRACKS WHICH MARKED BEGINNING OF CASTRO REVOLUTUION. SLOGAN FOR FESTIVAL IS "FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP." OTHER DOMINANT THEMES LIKELY TO BE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, AND DISARMAMENT. CUBAN NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMISSION IS HEADED BY FIDEL AND RAUL CASTRO, AND OTHER TOP LEVELS OF CUBAN LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTION OF FESTIVAL.

6. IN ADDITION TO 16,000 DELEGATES, FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS INDICATE THERE WILL BE SOME 5,000 TOURISTS, 1,000 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND 130 DISTINGUISHED INVITEES IN HAVANA FOR THE FESTIVITIES. THE CUBAN HOSTS WILL CERTAINLY FEEL LOGISTICAL PRESSURES FROM SUCH AN INFLUX.

CHRISTOPHER

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